

Austria / Czech

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER ON AUSTRIAN AFFAIRS

RESTRICTED

Vienna, Austria

September 17, 1945

NO. 217

Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT: Petition to Allied Commission for
Incorporation of Southern Moravia
and Southern Bohemia into Austria.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

1/ I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a petition for the incorporation of Southern Moravia and Southern Bohemia into Austria which was addressed to the Allied Commission for Austria and delivered to General Clark's Headquarters by a group of Southern Moravians and Bohemians now in Austria.

Since the transfer of territory in question would be contrary to existing United States policy respecting the Czechoslovak-Austrian frontier, no action on the petition will be taken by the United States element of the Allied Commission in the absence of instructions.

It is requested that copies of this despatch and its enclosure be sent to the War Department for possible future reference in telegrams from General Clark.

Respectfully yours,

John G. Erhardt
John G. Erhardt,
Political Adviser.

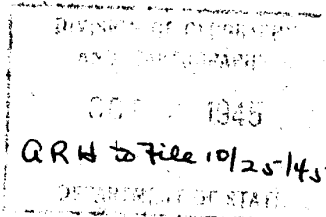
Enclosure

1/ Petition for the incorporation
of Southern Moravia and Southern
Bohemia into Austria.

File No. 715

CWG:OMJ

Ozalid to Department
Two copies General Gruenther,
Deputy Commanding General, USPA.



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Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 217
from the U.S. Political Adviser
on Austrian Affairs, Vienna,
Austria, September 17, 1945.

To the Allied Commission for Austria in Vienna.

Regarding: Request of the population of Southern Moravia
and Southern Bohemia which was obliged to leave
their country to be annexed to Austria.

Southern Moravia and Southern Bohemia is the strip of country
of the Czechoslovakian Republic which borders on Austria and has
a German speaking population which are Austrians in race.

Although it had been imposed to the Government of Czechoslovakia
by the Potsdam Declaration of the Allied Commission to accomplish the
evacuation of the Germans "within orderly and human measures" the pop-
ulation of Southern Moravia and Southern Bohemia was literally flogged
out and driven out from Czechoslovakia to Austria. This expulsion was
carried through within a space of time of two hours. In many cases
the partisans began to evacuate the population within some minutes
after the publication of the order. First of all men were arrested as
hostages and the population was informed that these hostages should
have been shot down, if the evacuation should not be carried through.
Afterwards the Czech partisans went into the dwellings with guns, pis-
tols and whips and drove the people out. Irrespective of their age
the population which consisted chiefly of old men, women and little
children, was beaten. On the way to the frontier they were robbed by
the partisans who persued them and the greatest part of their goods
and chattels which amounted at the most to 50 kilos was taken from
them. Besides their luggage was ransacked again at the frontier by
the frontier-guard and all jewellery money and even savings-bank books
were taken and personal documents were torn. Robbed and worried to
death the evacuated people passed the frontier. Their distress is
simply indescribable. It must be mentioned that many men were slain
by the Czechs, men who were not at all National-Socialists but peaceful
peasants. For instance in the little village of Lipols alone seven men
were slain. Many men had been put into prison long ago and they are
still there at present.

Southern Moravia and Southern Bohemia is German-Austrian soil for
time immemorial and here there were never Czechs, therefore the Czechs
have no historical claim to this country. The pretext of the Czechs
that the Germans of that region had disturbed the peace of Central
Europe is not true. The greatest part of the inhabitants of Southern
Moravia and Southern Bohemia were peasants, they made home politics,
affirmed the Czechoslovak State and the greatest part of them were
either Agrarians or Christian-Socialists, two activistic parties which
were represented in the Prague Government by the ministers Dr. Spina
and Zajicek. Only towards the end, when the Czechoslovak Government
encroached upon the rights of the Germans more and more and the two
above mentioned parties could obtain nothing, they joined the Sudeten-
German Party. But the party of the Sudeten-Germans was admitted by
the Prague Government and was the strongest party in Czechoslovakia.

The 14 points of Wilson guaranteed the right of self-government
to the nations. After the decay of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy all
German speaking parts joined the Austrian Republic. Thus in Neubistritz
an Austrian district was made. For Southern Moravia an Austrian Country
District was provided for in Znaim. When the Austrians intended to hold
an election of the Constitutional National Assembly and the Czechs hin-
dered the Germans of Moravia and Bohemia to do so, on March 4th 1919 the

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Germans protested without arms against that oppression. Then without previous warning the Czech soldiers shot into the assembly and 56 dead persons covered the ground of the Sudet towns. The German speaking border countries were occupied against the will of the population by the Czechs and also Southern Moravia and Southern Bohemia were incorporated by force into the Czechoslovakian Republic.

That this state of things was untenable is proved by the fact that the Leading Powers of Europe in September 1938 found themselves in the necessity to comply with the minority problem of Czechoslovakia. After impartial inquiries particularly by English politicians as Mr. Runciman the German speaking border countries were separated from Czechoslovakia in the Munich Agreement.

The then made frontier of the Protectorate was the real linguistic frontier. That frontier must be considered as the only right frontier. Thus the Southern regions of Moravia and Bohemia fell to Austria.

The population of these regions is feeling as Austrians as they belong to Austria in blood and race. Their country was connected with Austria for centuries in good and bad times and had been separated from Austria not by right but only by force.

Austria badly wants these agricultural regions especially for the supply of Vienna with agricultural products. But Czechoslovakia has won so much room by evacuating so many Germans from the linguistic islands and the Northern parts of the country, that it does not at all want these Southern border regions and the Czech nation will not be numerous enough to colonize all these regions and to exploit it for the nourishment of Europe.

For all these reasons we call with confidence to the sense of justice of The Allied Commission with the

request

to leave Southern Moravia and Southern Bohemia to Austria so that the linguistic frontier will be the future frontier of the two States.

For all evacuated Southmoravians and Southbohemians :

(Six signatures.)